

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A digital camera comprising:
an image sensor for capturing digital images;
a shutter button; and
a processor coupled to the shutter button and image sensor that implements a
5 mode detection algorithm that automatically switches between still image and video mode.
2. The digital camera recited in Claim 1 wherein the mode detection algorithm is operative to:
record a still image upon detection of pressing of the shutter button;
after the still image is recorded, automatically switching to video mode to record
5 video images;
if the shutter button remains depressed for a predetermined time period,
optionally deleting the still image; and
if the shutter button is released before the end of the predetermined time period
optionally deleting the recorded video images.
3. The digital camera recited in Claim 2 wherein the predetermined time period is on the order of one second
4. A method comprising the steps of:
providing a digital camera that comprises a mode detection algorithm that
automatically switches between still image and video image mode;
pressing a shutter button on the digital camera;
5 recording a still image upon detection of pressing of the shutter button;
after the still image is recorded, automatically switching to video mode to record
video images;
if the shutter button remains depressed for a predetermined time period,
optionally deleting the still image; and
10 if the shutter button is released before the end of the predetermined time period
optionally deleting the recorded video images.

5. The method recited in Claim 4 wherein the predetermined time period is on the order of one second